

September 2, 1980

Ms. Joan M. Davenport
Assistant Secretary of the Interior
U. S. Department of the Interior
18th & C Streets, N.W., Room 6654
Washington, D. C. 20240

Confidential Claim Retracted

Authorized by: SC

Date: 6/25/13

Dear Ms. Davenport:

We recently attended a meeting in Denver, Colorado, regarding a proposed legislation draft pertaining to Indian administration of coal operations on Indian lands. The meeting was educational. Upon further review, we will submit comments.

This letter is a request on another matter. Mr. Richard Wilson of your office was one of the speakers. During his presentation, he related some cases of communication problems between the federal environmental regulatory agencies and Indian tribes.

Located on our reservation is one of the largest open pit uranium mines. It has been here for 27 years. To date, the mining company has yet to submit a mining and reclamation plan. The company is preparing such a document, but has asked for and received two extensions. In view of the fact that decommissioning of the mine is in the near future, we have some concerns. The mined land, therefore, remains unreclaimed and poses potential future radiological hazards to the environment.

We hereby request a meeting with Mr. Wilson to discuss some mitigation measures. Although the local U.S. Geological Survey has just recently exercised their responsibilities to some degree, we feel we need to establish rapport with your office. Any consideration from you would be appreciated.

If there is other information you require, please let me know.

Sincerely,

PUEBLO OF LAGUNA

Harry D. Early
Governor

9403941

HDE:ejm

CONFIDENTIAL c: Marc Nelson, USGS
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